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## Genomics-based discovery and engineering of biocatalysts for conversion of amines

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# Acknowledgements



As I write these final words in pre-doctor state, it's hard not to reflect on the past decade as an American expat living in three European countries. One thing for sure has changed – my writing. Dick Janssen 'de-puffed' it for more direct messages here. Partially shedding my American script was hard, but compliments equating my writing to Beethoven and Rococco furniture helped. More importantly, I'm grateful for the opportunity to experience diverse fields related to enzyme discovery and engineering: bioinformatics, microbiology, and genomics. The exposure to many conferences and collaborations were a true joy in getting to know others in the field. Thanks, Dick, for enabling such a great experience and for the flexibility and understanding you've shown during my tough times!

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Francisco, Seattle, and New York City as I ended my stays there, for never doubting my career change, for your genuine interest in others despite your health condition, and for touching the lives of others as you did mine. Some say I have a gift to inspire, you surely played a role in this. Serendipitously, as you taught me to appreciate the stars and ponder on 'what is out there' as a young boy, I now find myself appreciating them for another reason: pattern recognition. Just as Cecelia Payne discovered patterns in the spectral characteristics of stars to unravel their elemental compositions, I now find myself unravelling patterns in protein features to improve their function and discover new proteins. Thanks, Dad, for encouraging me to look up at the sky and to be limited by nothing, not even the sky.

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